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VACCINATION—INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

A report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in relation to the execution of the act extending the benefit of Vaccination to the Indian Tribes, &c.

FEBRUARY 2, 1833.

Read, and laid upon the table.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

February 1, 1833.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a report, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of the proceedings of the department in carrying into effect the act of the 5th of May, 1832, "to provide the means for extending the benefits of vaccination, as a preventive of the small pox, to the Indian tribes, &c.," which the 4th section of that act requires shall be made to Congress, "on or before the 1st of February next."

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

HON. ANDREW STEVENSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

Office Indian Affairs, January 31, 1833.

SIR: In obedience to your direction I have prepared, and have now the honor to submit a statement of the manner in which the fund for the vaccination of the Indians, provided for by the act of May 5, 1832, has been distributed and expended, and the duty of vaccinating performed, as complete as the information, received at this office, enables me to make it.



The names of the agents and physicians employed, the compensation allowed the latter, the date of their appointments, the number of Indians vaccinated by them, and the tribes to which these belonged, are exhibited in the annexed tabular statement.

Copies of two of the letters of instruction sent to the agents, are also subjoined. All these letters were of similar tenor, the only important difference being the mode of compensation. Where the Indians were sparsely settled, or scattered over a wide space, and the physicians were, of course, obliged to travel far, a per diem allowance of six dollars was made. This allowance was commuted, at the rate of six dollars for every one hundred persons vaccinated, where the Indians resided in the vicinity of the agency, and underwent the operation as, from time to time, they happened to visit it. This change in the mode of compensation proceeded upon the presumption that, in this case, only a small part of any one day would be spent by a physician in the discharge of this duty. Physicians residing near the Indian country were employed in almost every instance, it being impossible for the army surgeons to vaccinate any persons, except those who came to their respective posts. Assistants were allowed to the agent and physicians upon the upper Missouri only, who were obliged to pass over an extensive and difficult region; and, in but one instance, where the service was performed under the authority of the act of May 5th, has any thing been paid for extra travelling expenses. Vaccine matter was procured by the Surgeon General, and transmitted by mail to the several agents. Some delay and inconvenience were occasioned by the bad quality of a part of the matter thus forwarded, but they were promptly remedied by the agents or physicians, who obtained fresh supplies from other sources.

The reports which have been received here show that the Indians uniformly, when uninfluenced by others, rightly appreciated the object of the Government in offering them this preventive against a loathsome and fatal disease. Among the Kansas only was any opposition manifested, and this is attributed to the representations of a trader, into whose conduct an inquiry has been instituted.

From some of the professional gentlemen employed, and of the agents, valuable statistical notes have been received respecting the origin, progress, frequency, and effects of the small pox among the Indians, and the nature and remedies of other prevalent diseases. And, in general, they are entitled to commendation for the skill, attention, perseverance, and zeal, with which they have executed the benevolent designs of the Government.

To some of the tribes, the benefits of the act of May 5, 1832, have not been extended, and there remain many individuals among those tribes which have been visited the past season, who, it is desirable, should go through the process of vaccination. The interest felt by some Indians in the negotiation of treaties of cession, the preparations of others for removal west of the Mississippi, and the lately terminated hostilities upon the frontiers, conspired to retard the progress of the physicians, and to limit their labors. All, however, which it is important should be done, may be accomplished the next season with the balance of the appropriation of twelve thousand dollars. The amount already paid is \$5,717: of this sum, \$1,085 50 was applied to pay for services performed among the Creek Indians in Georgia and Alabama, and the Menomonees and Winnebagoes at Green Bay, prior to the passage of the act of the last session. Of other allowances that have been made, \$2,475 50 have not yet been called for.

When these are disbursed, the balance, applicable to the vaccination of the Indians, will be \$3,807 50 It is not probable that the whole of this sum will be required for this object; but it may all be profitably expended in securing the Indians from sickness, and in restoring health when lost And I would respectfully suggest the expediency of an alteration of the terms of the act of the 5th of May, or an additional section, to authorize the application of this balance to these general purposes. A part of it might then be placed at the disposal of the Commissioners now engaged in the settlement of Indian affairs west of the Mississippi. It could be usefully expended by them for the relief of emigrants passing through the process of acclimation, or suffering from the fatigue of travelling, and change in their modes of life. Another part might be divided among the special agents employed to conduct the business of emigration, for the benefit of the various tribes under their care. If the treaties, concluded the last year, be ratified, and if others, which are contemplated, be completed, large numbers of Indians will probably remove. And experience has proved the propriety and necessity of providing some securities for them against disease upon the route If the cholera should re-appear the next season, and attack, with but its ordinary severity, one of the parties of emigrants destitute of the means of relief which may thus cheaply be afforded them, the consequences would be such as to excite the deepest regret.

With this exposition of the past, and these suggestions for the future,

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ELBERT HERRING.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

STATEMENT of the Fund for extending the benefits of Vaccination to the Indian Tribes.

Indian Agents.	Indian Tribes.	Rate of pay.	Persons employed.	Date of appointment.	Amount authorized to be expended.	Amount paid.	Amount paid for services prior to date of act.	Amount remaining to be paid.	No. of Indians vaccinated.
John Dougherty	Sioux and others	\$6 per day	Dr. Davis	1832.		1,824 50	-	175 50	3,000
Do	Do	do	Dr. Martin	May 12	2,000		-	-	86
William Marshall	Potawatamies and Miamies	do	Dr. Decker	29	-	400	-	-	513
Do	Do	do	Dr. McClure	15	400		-	200	
Joseph M. Street	Indians of Illinois	\$6 per 100	-	-	200	100	100	-	
Do	For extra services, Prairie du Chien	-	Dr. Bumont	-	100		-	-	
John H. Kenzie	Winnebagoes and Menomonees	\$6 per 100	-	-	200		-	200	665
Lawrence Taliaferro	Sioux	do	-	-	300		-	300	
Felix St. Vrain	Sacs and Foxes	do	-	-	200		-	200	
William Armstrong	Choctaws	\$6 a day	Dr. Perrin	May 21	300		-	300	
P. L. Chouteau	Osages	do	Dr. Conway	22	350	373	-	-	2,177
R. W. Cummins	Shawanees and Kickapoos, &c.	do	Dr. Crow	25	350	324	-	-	1,695
George Vashon	Cherokees West	\$6 per 100	-	-	200	600	-	200	
Henry R. Schoolcraft	Chippewas and Ottawas	\$3 pay & \$2 exp's	-	30	800		-	200	2,070
John Campbell	Creeks West	\$6 per 100	Dr. Wead	-	200		-	200	
George Boyd	Menomonees	do	-	-	200		-	150	
William P. Duval, sup't	Seminoles	do	-	-	150		-	150	
William B. Gardiner	Ohio Indians	\$6 a day	-	July 31	150	985 50	985 50	-	
John Crowell	Creeks East	-	Dr. Wharton	-	900	900	-	-	
G. B. Porter, sup't	Indians within his superintendency	-	-	-	210	210	-	-	
Expence of vaccine matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
						5,717	1,085 50	2,475 50	

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
Office Indian Affairs, February 1, 1833.

ELBERT HERRING.

[Doc. No. 82.]

(CIRCULAR.)

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

May 10, 1832.

SIR: You will receive herewith the copy of an act for the vaccination of the Indians. Your attention is requested to its provisions, and the best means of carrying it into effect.

You will explain to the Indians the object of the Government in this arrangement, and the nature and advantages of the process of vaccination. It will no doubt require some time and perseverance to remove their prejudices, and to induce them to submit to this preventive. But the object is so important to their future safety, that no proper means should be omitted to give them confidence in our intentions, and in the aid we offer them. At your agency, no further measures will be necessary than to make an arrangement with the army surgeon stationed at _____ to vaccinate such Indians as may be willing to submit to the process. The law allows for this service six dollars per day, but it is presumed that this compensation is intended to include services and expenses, when the whole time is devoted to this duty.

As the Indians will visit your agency at different times, and in detached parties, it will be impossible that this business can be done at once, or that the whole time of the surgeon can be devoted to it. In the execution of the duty, therefore, the vaccination of 100 Indians will be considered equal to a day's service, and for which the surgeon will be entitled to a compensation of six dollars.

The surgeon will prepare a roll, in which will be entered the names and ages of the Indians vaccinated, the tribes to which they belong, and the time when the duty was performed. This roll will be certified by him and yourself, and upon it you will pay the compensation prescribed. It will form, with the receipt of the surgeon, your voucher for the payment. You will draw for the amount upon this department, expressing the object in the draft, but, until further advised, you will not expend more than \$200 upon this object.

You will please to communicate to the department any suggestions that may occur to you upon this subject. Will a further expenditure be useful? Have the Indians confidence in the process, and will they submit to it? Can you state any change in the mode of effecting the object which would be useful? And I shall be glad to receive, from time to time, the result of your experience and observations, and an account of the progress which is made in the matter.

You will embrace every favorable opportunity of giving information to the Indians of the wishes of the Government, and of the arrangement which is made.

A quantity of vaccine matter, prepared under the direction of the surgeon general, accompanies this letter.

LEWIS CASS.

TO INDIAN AGENTS

in Illinois and Michigan.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

May 15, 1833.

You will receive herewith the copy of an act of Congress for the vaccination of the Indians. Your attention is requested to its provisions, and the best means for carrying it into effect.

You will explain to the Indians the object of the Government in this arrangement, and the nature and advantages of the process of vaccination. It will, no doubt, require time and perseverance to remove all their prejudices, and to induce them to put full faith in this preventive. But the object is so important to their future safety that no proper means should be spared to give them confidence in our intentions, and in the aid we offer them.

The surgeons appointed to vaccinate the Indians within your agency, have been requested to report to you, and you will give them instructions to regulate their duty in conformity with the suggestions in this letter. You will despatch them into the country at such times as you may think will be most convenient for the Indians, and you will send your interpreter with them. They will be allowed six dollars per day, to include their services and expenses, to be computed from the day they leave their places of residence. But you will not call upon them till the proper period for the performance of the duty. The interpreter will be allowed his expenses. But the whole expenditures for this service will not exceed three hundred dollars, and the employment of the surgeons and the expenses of the interpreter will be so limited as to be kept within that sum. When the object is accomplished, you can adjust the accounts upon the principles here stated, and draw upon the department for the amount, specifying in your draft the object of the expenditure.

Each of the surgeons will keep a journal of his proceedings, in which they will enter the names and ages of all the Indians vaccinated by them, and such information concerning the history, progress, and effects of the small pox among them, as they may be able to procure. As the opportunity will be favorable, it will be well for them to inquire into the state of the prevalent diseases, and their mode of treatment. This journal will be transmitted, with the report of the surgeons, to this department.

Should you think this duty can be better done at the time when the Indians are assembled to receive their annuities, you will postpone it until then. And although the sum of three hundred dollars is stated as an amount which must not be exceeded, it is desirable that the expenditure should be kept as far within it as may be compatible with the object to be attained. I send you some vaccine matter procured by the Surgeon General.

Very respectfully, &c.

L. CASS.

To Gen. WILLIAM MARSHALL,

Indian Agent, Logansport, Indiana.

P. S. The compensation to interpreters will not be included in the \$300.

